

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE, PFOR, PGOV, US, UK, FR, WB, GW

SUBJ: TASK FORCE ON TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

REF: GENEVA 9390

SUMMARY: SUBJECT MEETING ATTENDED BY NINETEEN COUNTRIES PLUS UNEP AND WMO. NOTABLE ABSENCE WAS THAT OF SOVIET UNION. I BRIEF GDR/FRG POLITICAL PROBLEM REPORTED REF DID NOT REOCCUR. NORWEGIAN PLAN FOR SETTING UP A EUROPEAN MONITORING NETWORK (EAST AND WEST) WAS APPROVED WITH CONSIDERABLE MODIFICATION AND SOME RELUCTANCE BY UK, FRANCE AND FRG. OUTCOME OF MEETING IS THAT COVERING LETTER AND DRAFT PLAN WILL GO TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECE RECOMMENDING PROGRAM TO WORKING PARTY FOR EVENTUAL APPROVAL OF SECIO ECONOMIC ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS (SAEP) AT FIFTH SESSION IN FEBRUARY 1977. END
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SUMMARY.

1. AUSTRIA, CANADA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DENMARK, FINLAND, FRANCE, GDR, FRG, HUNGARY, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, YUGOSLAVIA, UK AND U.S. PARTICIPATED IN MEETING ALONG WITH ECE, WMO AND UNEP REPS. SPECULATION RE SOVIET ABSENCE IS THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO GIVE AWAY THEIR SO₂ EMISSION INVENTORY. SOVIETS ALSO MAY FEEL THAT NORWAY PUSHING TOO HARD AND MOVING TOO FAST.

2. FINANCING - ALTHOUGH NEW PLAN DRAFTED AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION, SEVERAL PROBLEM AREAS REMAIN. ONE OF MAIN ONES IS FINANCING. UNEP WILL NOT COMMIT SELF TO FUND UNTIL INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES COMMIT THEMSELVES TO OPERATE MONITORING STATIONS. FRG, UK AND FRANCE WILL NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THIS UNTIL UNEP FUNDING IS ASSURED. OTHER TENTATIVE FINANCING DETAILS WERE AGREED UPON IN PRINCIPLE. SAMPLING AND CHEMICAL ANALYSES ARE TO BE FINANCED NATIONALLY. THE COORDINATION OF CHEMICAL AND METEOROLOGICAL DATA IS TO BE FINANCED BY UNEP/GEMS AT ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST OF 100-200 THOUSAND DOLLARS. 2.9- DESIGNATED METEOROLOGICAL COORDINATION CENTERS WOULD ALSO GET UNEP FUNDS.

3. ADMINISTRATION/COORDINATION - ECE WILL COORDINATE INVITATIONS TO NATIONS TO PARTICIPATE AND THEIR RESPONSES DURING FORMATION STAGE OF PROGRAM. WMO INSISTS ON ORGANIZING ALL METEOROLOGICAL SUPPORT INCLUDING SUPPLY OF DATA AND NAMING OF COMPETENT NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LONG RANGE TRANSPORT PROGRAM WILL BE IN UNEP OR ECE (UNDECIDED AT PRESENT). COORDINATION OF CHEMICAL DATA WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE OF AIR RESEARCH (NILU). TWO METEOROLOGICAL CONFERENCES ARE ENVISIONED, ONE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND ONE IN WESTERN EUROPE. NORWAY WANTS TO HOST THE CONFERENCE IN WESTERN EUROPE, BUT UK, FRG, FRANCE AND NETHERLANDS RESISTED THIS POINT WHICH LEFT UNDECIDED.

4. TIMING - PENDING ADDITIONAL WORKING PARTY REFINEMENT OF DRAFTS PLAN AND APPROVAL OF PROGRAM BY SAEP AT FIFTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SESSION IN FEBRUARY 1977, IT TENTATIVELY ENVISIONED THAT FIRST STATIONS WOULD BE OPERATIONAL BY JULY 1, 1977 AND FULL NETWORK IN OPERATION BY APRIL 1978. (NORWEGIAN ATTEMPTS TO GET AGREEMENT ON EVEN MORE AMBITIOUS TIME-TABLE REJECTED.)

5. VERY REAL PROBLEM IS THAT SHOULD SOVIET UNION DELAY OR ELECT NOT PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM AT FIFTH SESSION

SAEP, UK, FRG AND FRANCE MIGHT WELL ALSO FOLLOW SUIT. THESE THREE COUNTRIES FIRM IN THEIR FEELING THAT WITHOUT FULL EAST EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION, MEANING SOVIET UNION, PROPOSED PROJECT WOULD BE CARBON COPY AND UNNECESSARY REPETITION OF OECD LONG RANGE TRANSPORT STUDY. BEHIND THE SCENES RUMOR (WHICH HIGHLY SPECULATIVE) IS THAT UK WILL KILL PROJECT AT SAEP. SOME COUNTRIES FEEL THAT NORWAY'S MAIN MOTIVE IN RUSHING AHEAD IS TO EARN PLUS POINTS AT 1977 BELGRADE CSCE FOLLOW-UP MEETING.

6. US MADE NO COMMITMENT TO INVOLVEMENT IN MONITORING PROGRAM BUT REP, DR. HUSAR, INDICATED DEGREE OF INTEREST IN POSSIBLE FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN STEERING COMMITTEE (ONE OR TWO REPS FROM EACH COUNTRY), EXPERT MEETINGS, INSTRUMENTATION INTERCOMPARISON EXPERIMENTS AND LONG RANGE TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORTATION MODEL COMPARISONS. US AND CANADA ASKED TASK FORCE TO TAKE NOTE OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN PROJECTS WITH OBJECTIVES SIMILAR TO THOSE OF PROPOSED EUROPEAN PROGRAM AND RECOGNIZED NEED TO INSURE COMPATABILITY BETWEEN DIFFERENT REGIONAL AIR POLLUTION MONITORING PROGRAMS. CATTO

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